

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19 ar blant
a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on
children and young people in Wales

COV 47

Ymateb gan: Gwasanaethau Ieuenctid, Cyngor
Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful

COV 47

Response from: Youth Services, Merthyr Tydfil
County Borough Council

On behalf of the Youth Service in Merthyr Tydfil I would like to submit the following response to your request for evidence during the coronavirus crisis:

The pandemic has fundamentally altered the ways in which we engage with young people, as well as with colleagues within the local authority and other organisations. The health and wellbeing of our young people is at the forefront of everything we do and our workforce has been extremely adaptable and imaginative in how they have engaged with young people and devised activities and interventions for them.

- Our targeted youth work teams have established weekly 'keeping in touch' with young people they are currently working with and feed in any concerns to a weekly vulnerable families panel.
- In our experience, most young people are happy to engage with weekly 'keeping in touch' phone calls or video conferencing but some young people are not keen on receiving specific one to one interventions using these methods.
- Despite being closed to young people, our universal access youth clubs have set up regular 'virtual' youth club sessions and activities using video conferencing and have also employed a rota for keeping in touch with vulnerable members and also being available for members to contact if they wish to discuss issues and concerns.
- Our youth forum has remained active via video conferencing and has engaged in a number of local discussions, e.g. the effectiveness of current local on-line learning arrangements and they have also launched a borough wide environmental project.
- Through our NEET's team we continue to track the post 16 plans of identified Year 11 young people through liaison with their lead workers, Careers Wales and staff in our local secondary schools and the College Merthyr Tydfil.